

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/028,055

Examiner

Neveen Abel-Jalil

Applicant(s)

VERNON, WILLIAM EARL

Art Unit

2165

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to October 12, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2,4-10 and 12-32.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 12 December 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


CHARLES RONES
PRIMARY EXAMINER

CHARLES RONES
PR

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

Remarks

1. In response to the Amendment filed on October 12, 2004, claims 3, and 11 have been cancelled. Claims 22-32 have been newly added. Therefore, claims 1-2, 4-10, and 12-32 are now pending.

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Denis G. Maloney (Attorney of Record) on March 4, 2005.

3. The application has been amended as follows:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listings of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A system for managing physical assets, the system comprising:

a computer database that for tracking physical assets with each physical asset assigned a unique identifying code that is unique for all assets tracked by the system with no two assets

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belonging to different classes of physical assets and no two assets belonging to the same class of physical assets having the same identifying code;

a plurality of scanners located in a corresponding plurality of different geographic locations throughout the system, the scanners being capable of reading the unique identifying code assigned to a particular physical asset, the unique identifying code being embedded in a unique identifying label attached to the physical asset;

a communications link between the plurality of scanners and the computer database; and
wherein

every time ~~a~~ the status of a physical asset changes over the course of a cycle of change in status, the unique identifying label attached to the physical asset is scanned by one of the plurality of scanners and the unique identifying code is transmitted over the communications link to the computer database .

Claim 2 (currently amended): The system of claim 1 wherein geographic location information is transmitted over the communications link to the computer database along with the unique identifying code every time the status of the physical asset changes.

Claim 3 (Cancelled)

Claim 4 (previously presented): The system of claim 1 wherein the unique identifying code assigned to a particular physical asset is associated with a unique record stored in the computer database.

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Claim 5 (currently amended): The system of claim 4 wherein the unique data record comprises information specific to the physical asset.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The system of claim 1 wherein the unique identifying label attached to a physical asset is scanned every time the physical asset is moved.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The system of claim 5 further comprising a database server connected to the ~~central~~ computer database for facilitating communication between a user and the computer database.

Claim 8 (original): The system of claim 7 wherein the database server is connected to a network.

Claim 9 (original): The system of claim 8 wherein the network comprises the World Wide Web.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The system of claim 8 wherein the location of the physical asset is updated in real-time to the ~~central~~ computer database.

Claim 11 (cancelled)

Claim 12 (original): The system of claim 1 wherein the communications link is wireless.

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Claim 13 (currently amended): The system of claim 1 wherein a vendor is connected to the to the computer database over the communications link allowing the vendor to and provides information about a particular physical asset to the computer database.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A method of asset management comprising:

assigning each physical asset to be tracked a unique identifying code that is unique for all assets to be tracked with no two assets belonging to different classes of physical assets and no two assets belonging to the same class of physical assets having the same identifying code;

providing the unique identification code assigned to a physical asset in a unique identifying label and attaching the unique identifying label to the physical asset;

providing a central computer database having a plurality of records, with each record being associated with a particular physical asset and being identified by the unique identifying code associated with the physical asset, with the record including information specific to the physical asset;

providing a plurality of scanners located in a corresponding plurality of different geographic locations and capable of reading the unique identifying labels;

providing a communications link between a the plurality of scanners and the central computer database;

scanning the unique identifying label attached to a physical asset with one of the scanners every time the status of the physical asset is changed over the course of a cycle of change in status; and

transmitting status update information and the unique identifying code over the communications link to the central computer database every time the status of the physical asset is changed over the course of a cycle of change in status.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The method of claim 14 wherein the status of a physical asset includes the geographic location of the physical asset.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The method of claim 14 wherein the central computer database provides users real-time sharing of the information specific to the physical asset stored in the records of the central computer database.

Claim 17 (previously presented) The method of claim 14 further comprising:
uniquely identifying which specific product classes deserve tracking.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The method of claim 14 further comprising:
transmitting information stored in the record corresponding to the physical asset from the central computer database over the communications link in response to the central computer database's receipt of the status update information and unique identifying code.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The method of claim 14 wherein the status of a physical asset comprises:

installed at a customer location,

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inventory,
disposed of, or
being repaired.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The method of claim 14 further comprising:

providing an electronic network for linking multiple computer systems located in various locations to the central computer database such that the computer systems can be used to access the records of physical assets and track the status of assets from various locations on a real-time basis.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The method of claim 14 further comprising:

scanning the unique identifying label attached to a physical asset with one of the scanners at a plurality of different data exchange points;

transmitting status update information and the unique identifying code over the communications link to the central computer database upon scanning the unique identifying label at each of the plurality of data exchange points: and

transmitting information stored in the record corresponding to the asset, from the central computer database over the communications link in response to receipt of the status update information and unique identifying code.

Claim 22 (currently amended): The system of claim 1 wherein the status of a physical asset includes the geographic location of the physical asset.

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Claim 23 (previously presented): The system of claim 1 wherein status update information is transmitted over the communications link to the computer database along with the unique identifying code every time the status of the physical asset changes.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The system of claim 5 wherein the specific information in the record includes status information relating to the status of the physical asset.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The system of claim 5 wherein the record includes status information relating to the status of the physical asset.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The system of claim 5 wherein the user can update a record corresponding to a particular physical asset through a database server.

Claim 27 (currently amended): The method of claim 15 wherein scanning the unique identifying label attached to the physical asset encodes the geographic location of the physical asset in the status update information transmitted over the communications link to the computer database.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The method of claim 20 wherein the data exchange points comprise:

an installation location, a maintenance location, and a disposal location.

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Claim 29 (previously presented): The system of claim 23 wherein the status update information includes location information.

Claim 30 (previously presented): The system of claim 25 wherein transmitting the unique identifying code over the communications link to the computer database causes the status information in the record to be updated.

Claim 31 (previously presented): The system of claim 25 wherein status update information is transmitted over the communications link to the computer database along with the unique identifying code every time the status of the physical asset changes.

Claim 32 (currently amended): The system of claim 26 wherein in response to receiving the unique identifying code, the computer database transmits information stored in the record corresponding to the physical asset over the communications link.

Reasons for Allowance

4. Claims 1-3, 24-35, 37, and 39-63 are allowed over the prior art made of record.

5. The following is a statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record (Balent – U.S. Pub. 2003/0158796 A1-and- Lucas –U.S. Pub. No. 2001/0051905 A1) do not disclose, teach, or suggest the claimed limitations of (in combination

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with all other features in the claim), , as claimed in Independent claim 1, in conjunction with remaining claims provisions.

Claims 2, 4-10, 12-13, 22-26, and 29-32 are allowed over the prior art made of record, because they are dependent from the allowed independent claim 1.

The prior art of record (Balent – U.S. Pub. 2003/0158796 A1-and- Lucas –U.S. Pub. No. 2001/0051905 A1) do not disclose, teach, or suggest the claimed limitations of (in combination with all other features in the claim), , as claimed in Independent claim 14, in conjunction with remaining claims provisions.

Claims 15-21, and 27-28 are allowed over the prior art made of record, because they are dependent from the allowed independent claim 14.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Conclusion

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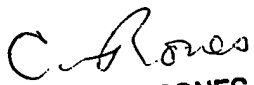
7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Neveen Abel-Jalil whose telephone number is 571-272-4074.

The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM-5: 30PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dov Popovici can be reached on 571-272-4038. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Neveen Abel-Jalil
March 4, 2005


CHARLES RONES
PRIMARY EXAMINER